(c) whether it is also a fact that measures taken are not sufficient to meet the challenges from hijackers; and

(d) the reasons for not going in for US norms with regard to sealing of cockpits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Indian Airlines and Air India are adopting the following anti-hijacking measures :-

(i) pre-embarkation security checks at airports;

(ii) locking of cockpit door of aircraft during operations;

(iii) deployment of Sky Marshals and domestic flights of Indian Airlines;

(iv) access control to aircraft by security staff of catering

(b) Yes, Sir. DGCA has mandated that all airplanes, having a door between the passenger and pilot compartment which are engaged in Scheduled Air Transport Services (passenger) or all cargo operations where provision is also available to carry passengers, should have a modified cockpit door which are able to resist forcible intrusion by unauthorized persons and be capable of withstanding impacts and to resist penetration by small arms fire and fragmentation devices. All applicable Indian operators have complied with this requirement.

(c) Security measures are as per the International Standards and recommended practices given in Annex 17 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation for safeguarding civil aviation against unlawful interference.

(d) The modification mandated by DGCA is in line with the US norms.

IA's contract with New India Assurance

†652. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Assurance business of Indian Airlines for the year 2003-04 has once again been accorded to the New India Assurance Company;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that neither the open tenders were invited for the purpose nor the guidelines of CVC were observed;

(c) whether the complaints from some of the MPs have also been received by him in this regard;

(d) if so, whether any inquiry by a neutral agency in the whole matter has been conducted by Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The insurance policy of the aircraft fleet of Indian Airlines is renewed on 1st October every year. Indian Airlines takes its aviation insurance policy from one of the four Public Sector Insurance Companies. In view of high-insured value and risk exposure and financing and lease requirements, the Indian insurers place majority of the risks with international re-insurers.

With a view to avail of the best expertise available with the insurance companies, a committee consisting of both the Dy. Managing Directors, Director (Flight Safety), Director (Operations), Director (Engineering) and Director (Finance) was constituted in Indian Airlines to interact with all the four public sector insurance companies so as to try and ensure a good deal for Indian Airlines for the last renewal effective 1st October, 2002.

Considering all the relevant factors such as operational and financial strength, experience and exposure in aviation insurance, credit rating etc., the Committee had recommended New India Assurance for renewal of Indian Airlines aviation insurance policies for the year 2002-03.

(c) to (e) Complaints were received through Members of Parliament and Central Vigilance Commission in this regard. The position, in detail, has been clarified to the CVC who has agreed with the clarifications and has advised closure of the matter.